

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-32. (Cancelled)

33. (New) A method for executing an application that is encapsulated in a package, the method comprising:

loading the package within a browser on a local client computer, the package including a manifest and an archive of files that include instructions and content needed to execute the application, the archive of files including:

an initial file that includes instructions for initiating execution of the application, and

other files needed to execute the application, and

the manifest including an initial file identifier that indicates that the initial file is to be processed before the other files in the archive of files when the application is executed;

in response to loading the package within the browser, automatically accessing the manifest;

locating the initial file identifier in the manifest;

based on the located initial file identifier, accessing the instructions for initiating the execution of the application in the initial file;

processing the accessed instructions; and

automatically initiating execution of the application based on the processed instructions.

34. (New) The method for executing an application that is encapsulated in a package of claim 33, further comprising receiving the package at the local client computer.

35. (New) The method for executing an application that is encapsulated in a package of claim 34, wherein receiving the package at a local client computer comprises loading the package onto the local client computer from a local computer readable medium.

36. (New) The method for executing an application that is encapsulated in a package of claim 33, wherein the instructions for initiating execution of the application in the initial file include instructions to process additional instructions from one or more of the other files in the archive, the method further comprising:

- accessing the additional instructions in the one or more other files; and
- processing the additional instructions, the accessing and processing of the additional instructions being performed in response to processing the instructions for initiating execution of the application in the initial file.

37. (New) The method for executing an application that is encapsulated in a package of claim 33, wherein:

- the initial file comprises a source file for a web page,
- the instructions for initiating execution of the application in the initial file comprise instructions for rendering the web page, and
- automatically initiating execution of the application comprises rendering the web page in accordance with the instructions for rendering the web page.

38. (New) The method for executing an application that is encapsulated in a package of claim 37, wherein the source file for the web page comprises an HTML document.

39. (New) The method for executing an application that is encapsulated in a package of claim 33, wherein:

- the initial file comprises an executable file, and

the instructions for initiating execution of the application in the initial file comprise program execution instructions.

40. (New) The method for executing an application that is encapsulated in a package of claim 39, wherein the executable file is a JavaScript file.

41. (New) The method for executing an application that is encapsulated in a package of claim 39, wherein the instructions for initiating execution of the application in the initial file comprise JAVA-based instructions.

42. (New) The method for executing an application that is encapsulated in a package of claim 33, wherein:

the manifest further comprises an archive type identifier that identifies an application type of the application, and

processing the accessed instructions comprises processing the accessed instructions in accordance with the application type of the application.

43. (New) The method for executing an application that is encapsulated in a package of claim 33, further comprising displaying an icon associated with the application, wherein loading the package in the browser comprises automatically loading the package in the browser in response to a user selecting the icon associated with the application.

44. (New) The method for executing an application that is encapsulated in a package of claim 33, wherein the initial file identifier indicates that the initial file is the first file to be processed in the archive of files when the application is executed.

45. (New) The method for executing an application that is encapsulated in a package of claim 33, wherein automatically initiating execution of the application based on the processed instructions comprises automatically initiating execution of the application without maintaining a connection between the local client computer and a web server.

46. (New) A computer program product for executing an application that is encapsulated in a package, the computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and including instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to:

load the package within the computer program product, the package including a manifest and an archive of files that include instructions and content needed to execute the application, the archive of files including:

an initial file that includes instructions for initiating execution of the application, and

other files needed to execute the application, and

the manifest including an initial file identifier that indicates that the initial file is to be processed before the other files in the archive of files when the application is executed;

automatically access the manifest in response to loading the package within the computer program product;

locate the initial file identifier in the manifest;

access the instructions for initiating the execution of the application in the initial file based on the located initial file identifier;

process the accessed instructions; and

automatically initiate execution of the application based on the processed instructions.

47. (New) The computer program product for executing an application that is encapsulated in a package of claim 46, further comprising instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to receive the package at a local client computer.

48. (New) The computer program product for executing an application that is encapsulated in a package of claim 47, wherein the instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to receive the package at the local client computer comprise instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to load the package onto the local client computer from a local computer readable medium.

49. (New) The computer program product for executing an application that is encapsulated in a package of claim 46, wherein the instructions for initiating the execution of the application in the initial file include instructions to process additional instructions from one or more of the other files in the archive, the computer program product further comprising instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to:

access and process the additional instructions in the one or more other files in response to processing the instructions for initiating execution of the application in the initial file.

50. (New) The computer program product for executing an application that is encapsulated in a package of claim 46, wherein:

the initial file comprises a source file for a web page,

the instructions for initiating execution of the application in the initial file comprise instructions for rendering the web page, and

the instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to automatically initiate execution of the application comprises instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to render the web page in accordance with the instructions for rendering the web page.

51. (New) The computer program product for executing an application that is encapsulated in a package of claim 50 wherein the source file for the web page comprises an HTML document.

52. (New) The computer program product for executing an application that is encapsulated in a package of claim 46, wherein:

the initial file comprises an executable file, and

the instructions for initiating execution of the application in the initial file comprise program execution instructions.

53. (New) The computer program product for executing an application that is encapsulated in a package of claim 52, wherein the executable file is a JAVAscript file.

54. (New) The computer program product for executing an application that is encapsulated in a package of claim 52, wherein the instructions for initiating execution of the application in the initial file comprise JAVA-based instructions.

55. (New) The computer program product for executing an application that is encapsulated in a package of claim 52, wherein:

the manifest further comprises an archive type identifier that identifies an application type of the application, and

the instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to process the accessed instructions comprise instructions that, when accessed by the processor, cause the processor to process the accessed instructions in accordance with the application type of the application.

56. (New) The computer program product for executing an application that is encapsulated in a package of claim 45 further comprising instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to display an icon associated with the application, wherein the instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to load the package in the computer program product comprise instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to automatically load the package in the computer program product in response to a user selecting the icon associated with the application.

57. (New) The computer program product for executing an application that is encapsulated in a package of claim 46, wherein the computer program product comprises a browser.

58. (New) The computer program product for executing an application that is encapsulated in a package of claim 46, wherein the initial file identifier indicates that the initial file is the first file to be processed in the archive of files when the application is executed.

59. (New) The computer program product for executing an application that is encapsulated in a package of claim 46, wherein the instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to automatically initiate execution of the application based on the processed instructions comprise instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to automatically initiate execution of the application without maintaining a connection between the local client computer and a web server.

60. (New) A method for encapsulating an application in a package such that the application may be automatically executed by a browser on a client computer, the method comprising:

generating an archive of files that include instructions and content needed to execute the application, the archive including:

an initial file that includes instructions for initiating execution of the application,
and

other files needed to execute the application; and

generating a manifest file that is associated with the archive, the manifest file including an initial file identifier that instructs the browser to process the initial file before processing other files in the archive in order to initiate execution of the application.

61. (New) The method for encapsulating an application in a package such that the application may be automatically executed by a browser on a client computer of claim 60, wherein the instructions for initiating execution of the application in the initial file include instructions to process additional instructions from one or more of the other files in the archive.

62. (New) The method for encapsulating an application in a package such that the application may be automatically executed by a browser on a client computer of claim 60, wherein:

the initial file comprises a source file for a web page, and

the instructions for initiating execution of the application in the initial file comprise instructions for rendering the web page.

63. (New) The method for encapsulating an application in a package such that the application may be automatically executed by a browser on a client computer of claim 62, wherein the source file for the web page comprises an HTML document.

64. (New) The method for encapsulating an application in a package such that the application may be automatically executed by a browser on a client computer of claim 60, wherein:

the initial file comprises an executable file, and

the instructions for initiating execution of the application in the initial file comprise program execution instructions.

65. (New) The method for encapsulating an application in a package such that the application may be automatically executed by a browser on a client computer of claim 64 wherein the executable file is a JavaScript file.

66. (New) The method for encapsulating an application in a package such that the application may be automatically executed by a browser on a client computer of claim 64, wherein the instructions for initiating execution of the application in the initial file comprise JAVA-based instructions.

67. (New) The method for encapsulating an application in a package such that the application may be automatically executed by a browser on a client computer of claim 60, wherein:

the manifest file further comprises an archive type identifier that instructs the browser to process the instructions for initiating execution of the application in the initial file in accordance with the application type of the application.

68. (New) A self-contained package for distributing an application, the package being embodied in a computer readable medium and configured to enable the application to be automatically executed within a browser environment, the package comprising:

an archive including:

an initial content source having instructions for initiating execution of the application within the browser environment, and

additional files that include instructions and content needed to execute the application within the browser environment; and

a manifest associated with the archive that includes an initial content identifier that indicates that the initial content source is to be processed before the additional files in the archive when the application is executed.

69. (New) The self-contained package according to claim 68, wherein said initial content source is an HTML file containing content layout instructions for rendering a document that displays content included in the archive.

70. (New) The self-contained package according to claim 68, wherein said initial content source is an executable file containing program execution instructions.

71. (New) The self-contained package according to claim 70, wherein said executable file is a JavaScript file.

72. (New) The self-contained package of claim 70, wherein the manifest further comprises an archive type identifier that identifies an application type of the application.

73. (New) The self-contained package of claim 68, wherein the archive is configured according to a .JAR type file structure.

74. (New) The self-contained package of claim 68, wherein the additional files comprise one or more of a web page, a script, an image, a sound file, and a JAVA file.

75. (New) A web browser configured to receive and execute an application encapsulated in a self-contained package, the web browser comprising:

an input module for inputting the self-contained package, wherein the self-contained package includes:

an archive including

an initial content source having instructions for initiating execution of the application, and

additional files that include instructions and content needed to execute the application, and

a manifest associated with the archive that includes an initial content identifier that indicates that the initial content source is to be processed before the additional files in the archive when the application is executed;

a processing engine for

accessing the manifest,

locating the initial file identifier in the manifest,

based on the located initial file identifier, accessing the instructions for initiating execution of the application in the initial file, and

processing the instructions for initiating execution of the application in the initial file before processing the instructions in the additional files; and

a content rendering and layout module for rendering content according to the instructions in the initial content source and the additional files.

76. (New) The web browser according to claim 75, wherein said initial content source is an HTML file containing content layout instructions for rendering a document that displays content included in the archive.

77. (New) The web browser according to claim 75, wherein said initial content source is an executable file containing program execution instructions.

78. (New) The web browser according to claim 77, wherein said executable file includes JavaScript instructions.

79. (New) The web browser according to claim 77, wherein said executable file includes JAVA-based instructions.

80. (New) The web browser according to claim 75, wherein the input module is configured to input the self-contained software package from a computer readable medium.

81. (New) The web browser according to claim 80, wherein said computer readable medium is a compact disc containing digitally recorded information.